GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:389
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
ALLEGED ARAUD IN NRI MARRIAGES
Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh;Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) : Whether a number of cases of alleged fraud in NRI marriages have been reported in the country;

(b) : If so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) : Whether the Government has formulated any action plan to tackl e this issue;

(d) : If so, the details thereof; and

(e) : The steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the existing haws more stringent in this regard?

Answer

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Stament referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Sstadfrred Question No.389 to be answered on 23rd August, 2006

(a) & (b) : A number of instances of hardships arising from NRI marriages as well as cases of alleged fraud have come to the notice of the Government from time to time. However, precise data is not available, as such cases are reported to different Ministries, institutions and to the State Governments etc.

(c) to (e) : The problems relating to NRI marriages have engaged the attention of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs since its formation in 2004. The problem was earlier examined by the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora (HLCID). It had made a few recommendations. These recommendations have been referred to the State Governments for necessary action.

The National Commission for Women has also examined the problems relating to NRI marriages and has made some recommendations. The recommendations of NCW are being examined by Government.

A proposal that India join The Hague Conference on Private International Law as a member State is also being processed by Government.

The Ministry is also taking various measures to create awareness on this issue. The measures include publishing a guidance booklet on marriages to overseas Indians and publicity through print and electronic media. The Ministry also organized a National Consultation in Delhi in February, 2006. To increase awareness, MOIA in collaboration with the National Commission for Women organized a workshop in Chandigard in June, 2006 to address the problems relating to marriages with overseas Indians. Another workshop is being organized in Kerala in September, 2006. Similar workshops are being proposed in other relevant States.